

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 08999 171732Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /049 W

----- 081039

O R 171654Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4329

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

AMCONSUL UDORN

DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8999

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: DS 31 MAY 1976

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: PROTEST MEMORANDUM ON U.S. ACTIONS IN THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR

REF: BANGKOK 8995 (NOTAL)

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN ASKED THE DCM TO SEE HIM AT 1630 MAY 17 TO PRESENT A PROTEST MEMORANDUM (REFTEL) AGAINST U.S. ACTIONS IN THE RECENT MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR. THE NOTE RECOUNTS THE STANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE USE OF THAI TERRITORY FOR U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST CAMBODIA.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 08999 171732Z

2. THE KEY PARAGRAPH OF THE MEMORANDUM READS QUOTE IN THE LIGHT OF THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION EVOLVING FROM THESE REGRETTABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES CHOSE TO DISREGARD THE WILL OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES AND TO PROMOTE THEIR FUTURE COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL INTEREST, IT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THAILAND BE RESPECTED AND THAT THE GOOD WILL AND FRIENDSHIP OF THAILAND BE NOT ABUSED AGAIN. UNQUOTE.

3. THE DCM ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR HIS FRANK VIEWS ON WHAT ACTIONS THE U.S. COULD TAKE TO REDRESS THE SITUATION. CHATCHAI SAID THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE A FORMAL NOTE OF APOLOGY FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE THAI COULD IMMEDIATELY CIRCULATE TO THE PRESS. CHATCHAI ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD READ EXCERPTS FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MAY 16 PRESS INTERVIEW, BUT IN HIS VIEW THESE CONCILIATORY REMARKS DID NOT CONSTITUTE A FORMAL APOLOGY.

4. THE DCM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE THAI POSITION, BUT THAT HE HOPED THE THAI ALSO APPRECIATED THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES. WE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TAKE STRONG AND QUICK ACTION TO RECOVER THE MAYAGUEZ AND ITS CREW. IN DOING THIS WE WERE NOT ACTING SOLELY FROM OUR OWN MOTIVES BUT IN THE INTEREST OF ALL NATIONS WISHING TO PRESERVE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS. PIRACY CANNOT GO UNCHALLENGED. THE KHMER COMMUNISTS HAD ALSO INTERCEPTED SHIPS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES, SUCH AS KOREAN, SWEDISH, AND PANAMANIAN. ALL NATIONS BENEFIT FROM STRONG ACTION IN A SITUATION SUCH AS THIS.

5. IN SEPARATE MESSAGE WE DISCUSS MEASURES WE BELIEVE ARE REQUIRED TO CONTAIN THE DAMAGE TO US-THAI RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOVEREIGNTY, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, MAYAGUEZ SS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** AS 19760531  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BANGKOK 8995  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROTEST MEMORANDUM ON U.S. ACTIONS IN THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006